

Message Text

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 617

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1740

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 EC BRUSSELS 02003

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, PFOR, US

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: MULTILATERAL INFORMATION ON
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

REF: (A) STATE 37591, (B) EC BRUSSELS 101

1. AS REPORTED IN THE REFTEL, THERE ARE TWO ASPECTS OF THE EC'S PARTICIPATION IN THE UN: THE COMMUNITY'S OBSERVER STATUS IN THE GA, WHERE IT IS REPRESENTED BY AN EC COMMISSION STAFF MEMBER WHO ACTS AS OFFICIAL EC OBSERVER; AND THE POLITICAL COORDINATION OF MEMBER STATES' POSITIONS ON VARIOUS UN ISSUES, WHICH RESULTS FROM CAUCUSES OF THE EC NINE GROUP IN NEW YORK AND ULTIMATELY FROM MEETINGS OF THE EC-NINE POLITICAL DIRECTORS AND FOREIGN MINISTERS. THESE TWO ASPECTS COALESCE TO THE EXTENT THAT EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS ATTEND POLITICAL COOPERATION MEETINGS OF THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS AND FOREIGN MINISTERS AND THE COMMISSION'S OBSERVER TO THE UN ATTENDS THE EC-NINE CAUCUS IN NEW YORK.

2. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE SPECIAL NATURE OF THE EC'S
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PARTICIPATION IN THE UN, WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE

TO APPLICABLE QUESTIONS POSED IN PARAGRAPH 7 OF REFTEL A:

A. THE EC'S OBJECTIVES IN THE UN ARE, GENERALLY SPEAKING, SIMILAR TO OUR OWN; THE RECORD OF THE 30TH UNGA DEMONSTRATED AN ENCOURAGING DEGREE OF ALIGNMENT WITH US POSITIONS. ON THE QUESTION OF STICKING TOGETHER, WHICH CERTAINLY RANKS AS ONE OF THE COMMUNITY'S MORE IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES, EC MEMBERS HAVE DRAWN CONSIDERABLE SATISFACTION FROM THEIR PERFORMANCE LAST FALL IN NEW YORK. THEY MAINTAINED A COMMON POSITION THROUGHOUT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION IN SEPTEMBER, AND DURING THE 30TH GA THEY VOTED TOGETHER ON 84 PERCENT OF THE VOTES. WE ARE NOT CERTAIN HOW MUCH ON-THE-SPOT COORDINATION WAS REQUIRED AMONG THE DELEGATIONS OF THE NINE AT THE UN TO PRODUCE THIS DEGREE OF COHESION BUT CLEARLY THEIR CONSULTATIONS MUST HAVE BEEN FREQUENT. AT THE LEVEL OF EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS AND/OR FOREIGN MINISTERS, WHERE THE MORE GENERAL LINES OF POLICY COORDINATION ON UN ISSUES ARE LIKELY TO BE SET, CONSULTATIONS IN RECENT MONTHS FOCUSED ON THE MIDDLE EAST (THE THREATENED SUSPENSION OF ISRAEL FROM THE GA, THE ZIONISM-RACISM RESOLUTION), THE KOREAN ISSUE AND NAMIBIA. LOOKING TOWARD THE 31ST UNGA THIS FALL, WE NOTE THAT THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS AT THEIR JANUARY MEETING AGREED ON THE NEED FOR IMPROVED PREPARATION AND COORDINATION AMONG THE NINE AND REQUESTED THEIR PERMREPS IN N.Y. TO PREPARE AN ANALYSIS OF HOW THE NINE'S PERFORMANCE COULD BE IMPROVED THIS FALL. WE ALSO NOTE THAT, PARTLY AS A RESULT OF THE BREAKDOWN IN COMMUNITY COHESION OVER MPLA RECOGNITION, AN EFFORT IS UNDERWAY TO DEFINE A MORE COMPREHENSIVE EC POLICY TOWARD AFRICA (LUXEMBOURG 200 AND 201) WHICH, IF SUCCESSFUL, COULD BECOME A MAJOR EUROPEAN INTEREST AT THE 31ST UNGA.

B. AS WE POINTED OUT IN REFTEL B, THE US HAS A NUMBER OF EFFECTIVE CHANNELS FOR INFLUENCING THE VIEWS OF THE EC ON UN-RELATED ISSUES. THESE ARE: (1) OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EC PRESIDENCY ON THE EVE OF EC-NINE POLITICAL DIRECTORS AND FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETINGS; (2) CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN USEC AND THE EC COMMISSION IN BRUSSELS ON UN ISSUES WHERE THE COMMISSION PLAYS A ROLE; (3) CONTACTS BETWEEN USUN AND THE EC-CONFIDENTIAL

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NINE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AT THE UN IN NEW YORK; (4) CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EC-NINE MEMBER STATES IN CAPITALS; AND (5) CONSULTATIONS WITH EIGHT OF THE NINE IN THE NATO FRAMEWORK. OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EC PRESIDENCY PRIOR TO EC NINE POLITICAL COOPERATION MEETINGS CONSTITUTE A KIND OF OPEN LINE FOR INJECTING US VIEWS INTO THE PRIMARY FORUM FOR COORDINATING THE BROADER LINES OF EC POLICIES. SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT

OF THIS INFORMAL PROCEDURE IN 1973, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE
TO ENGAGE IN AN EXPANDING DIALOGUE WITH THE EC ON
FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES. WE BELIEVE THAT ITS USEFULNESS
TO US ON UN RELATED ISSUES CAN BE INCREASED BY TIMELY
INPUT, AS WELL AS BY A CANDID RATIONAL FOR US POSITIONS.
WE REGARD TO THE INFLUENCE OF OTHER COUNTRIES
AND GROUPS OF COUNTRIES ON THE EC, IT WOULD BE SAFE TO
SAY THAT THE EC, BECAUSE OF ITS EXTENSIVE NETWORK OF
RELATIONSHIPS WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ITS SENSITIVITY
TO DEPENDENCE ON THE DEVELOPING WORLD FOR RAW MATERIALS,
AND ITS FORMER COLONIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH MANY DEVELOP-
ING COUNTRIES, IS INFLTAKE INTO ACCOUNT, THE VIEWS OF DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES
ON THE RANGE OF UN ECONOMIC ISSUES. SIMILARLY, WE
ASSUME THAT THE EC EXPLAINS ITS VIEWS ON THESE ISSUES
THROUGH THE CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS ESTABLISHED IN
THE LOME CONVENTION AND OTHER AGREEMENTS WITH
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. ON ONE SPECIFIC ISSUE, WE RECALL
THAT IN JULY 1973 THE EC PRESIDENCY AND MEMBER STATES
MADE A COORDINATED APPEAL TO MOST NON-ALIGNED AND
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN AN EFFORT TO FORESTALL THE
THREATENED SUSPENSION OF ISRAEL FROM THE UN GENERAL
ASSEMBLY.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 EC BRUSSELS 02003

C. WE REGARD TO EC-NINE POLITICAL COOPERATION, THE CHANNELS FOR TRANSMITTING INSTRUCTIONS REMAIN MAINLY THROUGH THE MEMBER STATES' FOREIGN MINISTRIES. THE COMMUNITY'S OBSERVER AT THE GA OPERATES UNDER GUIDANCE FROM THE EC COMMISSION IN BRUSSELS, REFLECTING POSITIONS BASED ON THE COMMUNITY'S COMPETENCE UNDER THE TREATY OF ROME. WITH INCREASING EMPHASIS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AT THE UN, THE COMMISSION IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY INVOLVED IN ISSUES AT THE UN. (ONE REFLECTION OF THE COMMISSION'S GROWING INTEREST IN UN ISSUES IS THE PROJECTED INCREASE IN THE OBSERVER MISSION'S STAFF FROM ONE TO FIVE MEMBERS). WITH REGARD TO THE QUESTION OF COORDINATION AT THE UN ON ISSUES WHICH INVOLVE THE COMMUNITY'S COMPETENCE, WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT ONCE THE GENERAL LINES ARE SET THROUGH THE COMMUNITY'S INSTITUTIONS IN BRUSSELS, THE ROLE OF BRUSSELS IN PROVIDING FOLLOW-ON GUIDANCE BECOMES SOMEWHAT FRAGMENTED AND LETHARGIC. THE REASON LIES IN THE FUNCTIONING OF THE COMMUNITY'S INSTITUTIONS: THE COUNCIL MEETS ONLY PERIODICALLY AND IS THEREFORE NOT ALWAYS AVAILABLE FOR COORDINATION
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WHILE THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES HAS FOR VARIOUS REASONS NOT BEEN UTILIZED FREQUENTLY FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE RESULT IS THAT BRUSSELS-BASED COMMAND-AND-CONTROL FUNCTIONS SLOWLY AND SOMEWHAT SPORADICALLY.

D. NOT APPLICABLE.

E. AS INDICATED IN PARA A ABOVE, THE US HAS OPEN CHANNELS TO THE EC THROUGH OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EC PRESIDENCY, THE MEMBER STATES, THROUGH OUR CONTACTS WITH THE EC COMMISSION IN BRUSSELS, AND THROUGH CONSULTATIVE ARRANGMENTS AT NATO. US REPRESENTATIONS ARE EXPECTED AND IN FACT FOR THE MOST PART WELCOMED IN THE CONTEXT OF A DIALOGUE WHICH HAS BEEN EXPANDING STEADILY SINCE 1974. HINTON

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